COMMENTS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on November 19, 2003. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 50 - 61 and 72 - 160 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicants have: 1) amended claims 92, 101 and 119; and, 2) has not added or deleted any claims. As such, claims 50-61 and 72-160 remain pending. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of claims 50-61 and 72-160.

The Examiner has objected to claims 50 and 72 stating that "the first ring signal and the off-hook signal are not generated at the same interface". See, Office Action mailed 11/19/03, pg. 2. The Applicants do not understand the Examiner's objection.

Independent claim 50 recites:

> b) generating a first ring signal at a second telephone interface in
> response to said initiating;
> c) generating an off hook signal at said second telephone interface . . .

Independent claim 72 recites:

> b) means for generating a first ring signal at a second telephone
> interface in response to said initiating;
> c) means for generating an off hook signal at said second telephone interface . . .

According to the express language of independent claims 50 and 72, the first ring signal and the off hook signal are both generated at the same (second) interface. Therefore the Applicant has not amended either of claims 50 or 72 to overcome the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner has objected to claim 100 for failing to depend on the correct claim and has objected to claim 119 for its failure to recite the voice channel as being packetized for multiplexing and transportation purposes. In response the Applicant has amended claims 100 and 119 so as to cure the basis of the Examiner's objections. In light of these amendments the Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's objections have been overcome.

The Examiner has rejected each of independent claims 50, 72, 92, 100, 108, 120, 131, 142 and 151 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in light of the combination of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,118,864 (hereinafter, "Chang"), 5,940,479 (hereinafter "Guy") and 4,623,760 (hereinafter, "Binkerd"). According to the Examiner, the addition of Binkerd only teaches "providing an off-hook signal and then removing the off-hook signal and providing an on-hook signal to indicate the status of a line". See, Office Action mailed 11/19/03, pg. 4.

Each of independent claims 50, 72, 92, 100, 108, 120, 131, 142 and 151 respectfully recite (emphasis added):

> 50. A method, comprising:
> a) initiating a call to a remote telephone interface at a first telephone interface;
> b) generating a first ring signal at a second telephone interface in response to said initiating;
> c) generating an off hook signal at said second telephone interface and establishing a connection toward said remote telephone interface over a packet data network that resides between said second telephone interface and said remote telephone interface, said generating an off hook signal and said establishing a connection both a consequence of said generating a first ring signal;
> d) generating a second ring signal at said remote telephone interface and starting a timer that measures a time period over which said second ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface, said generating a second ring signal and said starting a timer both a consequence of said establishing a connection;

e) ceasing said second ring signal and sending a message through said packet data network toward said second telephone interface, said ceasing said second ring signal and said sending a message both a consequence of said timer having expired; and

f) ceasing said off hook signal and asserting an on hook signal at said second telephone interface, said ceasing said off hook signal and said asserting said on hook signal both a consequence of said sending a message.

72. A network arrangement, comprising:

a) means for initiating a call to a remote telephone interface at a first telephone interface;

b) means for generating a first ring signal at a second telephone interface in response to said initiating;

c) means for generating an off hook signal at said second telephone interface and establishing a connection toward said remote telephone interface over a packet data network that resides between said second telephone interface and said remote telephone interface, said generating an off hook signal and said establishing a connection both a consequence of said generating a first ring signal;

d) means for generating a second ring signal at said remote telephone interface and starting a timer that measures a time period over which said second ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface, said generating a second ring signal and said starting a timer both a consequence of said establishing a connection;

e) means for ceasing said second ring signal and sending a message through said packet data network toward said second telephone interface, said ceasing said second ring signal and said sending a message both a consequence of said timer having expired; and

f) means for ceasing said off hook signal and asserting an on hook signal at said second telephone interface, said ceasing said off hook signal and said asserting said on hook signal both a consequence of said sending a message.

92. A method, comprising:

a) generating a ring signal at a remote telephone interface and starting a timer that measures a time period over which said ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface, said generating a ring signal and said starting a timer both a consequence of a connection that was established toward said remote telephone interface over a packet data network in order to place a call through said remote telephone interface;

b) ceasing said ring signal and sending a message in response to said timer expiring, said sending a message further comprising sending said message over said packet data network to a system that initiated said connection, said system having initiated said connection in response to a ring signal observed at a telephone interface maintained by said system; and

c) creating an "on-hook" signal at said telephone interface maintained by said system as a consequence of said system having received said message.

100. An apparatus, comprising:

a) means for providing a ring signal at a remote telephone interface as consequence of a connection that was established toward said remote telephone interface over a packet data network;

b) timer means that measures a time period over which said ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface;

c) means for ceasing said ring signal, said ceasing in response to said timer expiring;

d) means for sending a message, in response to said timer expiring, over said packet data network to a system that initiated said connection, said system having initiated said connection in response to a ring signal observed at a telephone interface; and

e) means for providing an "on-hook" signal at said telephone interface <u>as a consequence of said message having been received by said system</u>.

108. An apparatus, comprising:
a first system communicatively coupled to a second system through a packet network;
said first system comprising:

> a) a timer, said timer to measure a time period over which a ring signal is applied;
> b) a telephone interface where said ring signal is generated;
> c) a first interface to said packet network, said first interface from where a message is sent from said first system to said second system if said timer expires;

said second system comprising:

> a) a second interface to said packet network, said second interface where said message is received;
> b) a third interface that transitions to an on hook state <u>in response to said message being received</u>.

120. A method, comprising:

a) detecting a ring signal at a telephony interface as a consequence of a call attempting to be established through said telephony interface to a remote location, said call destined for said remote location over a packet network that exists between said remote location and said telephony interface;

b) generating an off hook signal at said telephony interface to respond to said ring signal and generating a communication over said packet network to cause said remote location to recognize said attempting;

c) receiving a message from said packet network that indicates said attempting should be terminated; and,

d) causing said telephony interface, <u>as a consequence of said receiving of said message</u>, to replace said off said hook signal with a signal indicative of an on hook or idle state.

131. A computer readable medium containing executable instructions which when executed in a processing system, causes the system to perform a method, the method comprising:

a) causing an off hook signal to be generated at a telephony interface in response to a ring signal having been detected at said ˙ telephony interface, said ring signal for a call that is attempting to be established through said telephony interface and a packet network to a remote location, where, said packet network resides between said telephony interface and said remote location
and
generating a communication over said packet network to cause said remote location to recognize said attempting; and,

b) causing said telephony interface to replace said off said hook signal with a signal indicative of an on hook or idle state <u>in response to a</u>

message having been received from said network that indicates said attempting should be terminated.

142. (new) An apparatus, comprising:
    a) first means for receiving a ring signal as a consequence of a call attempting to be established through said first means to a remote location, said call destined for said remote location over a packet network that exists between said first means and said remote location;
    b) second means for generating an off hook signal at said first means to respond to said ring signal and generating a communication over said packet network to cause said remote location to recognize said attempting; and,
    c) third means for receiving a message from said packet network that indicates said attempting should be terminated,
wherein, said second means further comprises means for causing said telephony interface, as a consequence of said receiving of said message, to replace said off said hook signal with a signal indicative of an on hook or idle state.

151. (new) An apparatus, comprising:
a multiservice access concentrator comprising a voice over packet call control system that is communicatively coupled to a:
    a) a telephony interface to receive a ring signal as a consequence of a call attempting to be established through said multiservice access concentrator to a remote location, said call destined for said remote location over a packet network that exists between said multiservice access concentrator and said remote location, said telephony interface to also provide an off hook signal so that said multiservice access concentrator can respond to said ring signal; and,
    b) a packet network interface from where a communication is sent to said remote location through said packet network to cause said remote location to recognize said attempting, and from where a later received message is received that indicates said attempting should be terminated so as to cause said multiservice access concentrator to initiate replacement of said off hook signal with a signal indicative of an on hook or idle state.

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness ... the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." MPEP 2143.   The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's combination fails to cover each and every one of the Applicant's claim elements. In particular, the Binkerd reference fails to teach the replacement of an off-hook signal with an on-hook signal as a consequence of a message having been received from a packet network. The Binkerd reference was filed in 1983 at a time when time division multiplexed (TDM) networks were primarily used to

transport telephony traffic rather than packet networks. Consistent with this perspective the Binkerd reference only seems to refer to application with a TDM network and not a packet network (e.g., see Figure 1 of Binkerd). Therefore the Applicant respectfully submits that it is impossible for the Binkerd to teach the claimed manipulation of the off-hook and on-hook signals in response to a message received from a packet network.

REMARKS

Therefore the Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent claims 50, 72, 92, 100, 108, 120, 131, 142 and 151 are patentable over the Examiner's combination. Because all independent claims of the present application are allowable, all of the present application's pending claims are allowable. Therefore the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all claims.

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Robert O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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